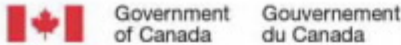


For Public Release

UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



SITE TF SITREP: 29 May 2023

2023 Federal By-Elections

This situation report (SITREP) provides information on the operations of the Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force. It is to be used by Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) and Deputy Ministers (DMs) for information and decision-making purposes. Intended for named recipients only. Please share with members of: SITE TF ADMs; SITE TF DMs; DMCIR.

Threat Updates

RCMP

- **(U)** There are significant differences across the ideologically motivated threat landscape when comparing the 2021 general election and the 2023 by-elections. Threats to physical polling sites in 2021 emerged primarily from opposition to public health measures, including masking requirements and capacity limits. These health measures are no longer in effect thereby eliminating the likelihood of threats associated to these specific issues. While grievances related to the public health emergency remain, they are no longer the driving narrative. Consequently, Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT) assesses that grievances stemming from public health orders are unlikely to contribute to threats to the June by-elections.
- **(U)** While the issue of threats to protected persons was a serious concern during the 2021 general election, the localized nature of the 2023 by-elections means a reduced likelihood for ideologically motivated threat actors to engage with these individuals. While visits by party leaders to campaign events may generate the potential for an increase in threats, IMCIT has not yet observed a noticeable increase in threatening rhetoric online.
- **(U)** Similar to the 2021 general election, it is the prevailing anti-authority grievances that have the greatest potential to pose threats including acts of violence to the 2023 by-elections.

GAC

- **(U)** RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of May 24 to 25.
- **(U)** RRM Canada assesses the vast majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites, and found no instances of foreign state-sponsored news outlets commenting on the by-election.
- **(U)** There were very few articles about the June 19 by-election today. Canadian news outlets continued to focus on the Special Rapporteur's recommendation for no public inquiry into foreign interference.

This document is the property of the Government of Canada. It shall not be altered, distributed beyond its intended audience, produced, reproduced or published, in whole or in any substantial part thereof, without the express permission of CSIS, given its role as the SITE TF Chair in 2023.

The word "Canada" in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font, with a small red maple leaf icon above the letter 'a'.

For Public Release

UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

- **(U)** There was no discussion of foreign interference or the June 19 by-elections on Chinese social media platforms today.

Operational Responses and Updates

- **(U)** No significant updates at this time.
-

This document is the property of the Government of Canada. It shall not be altered, distributed beyond its intended audience, produced, reproduced or published, in whole or in any substantial part thereof, without the express permission of CSIS, given its role as the SITE TF Chair in 2023.

Canada